

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so mention of the private schools was just tangential to your real underlying opposition to the amendment?

SENATOR HORGAN: No, it is probably 50 percent of my opposition, but my other 50 percent of the opposition lies in the question of liability that we are asking the schools to take on when we mandate that they have to provide this information. I honestly don't know of any other instance where we are mandating school nurses or counselors in the statutes to do something, and here we would be.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And there is no other place in the statutes where we are mandating this kind of notification from a physician either. There is a matter that is of concern to me whenever we talk about the public and the private schools. There seems to be an inclination that if we keep the kids who go to the private schools ignorant, or keep them subject to corporal punishment, then somehow we have done our job. When it comes to education, if something is a positive good, it should be available to all the children, regardless of how we define the school or educational facility which they attend. But I hope enough of you will feel as I do that information cannot hurt anybody. The information that is being required under this amendment is the information contained in the bill. Senator Labedz demonstrated that there is a requirement that a doctor give a notification, if he is told by a young woman that she was subjected to various types of abuse, which she demonstrated that neither she nor I know what the definition of those various types of abuse would be. So how is the young woman supposed to know? She won't. So we are saying she should know that which we don't know. This amendment would give her information. It will not facilitate abortion. It is not an advocacy of abortion, nor does it suggest that she be referred to a doctor who perform abortions. It simply requires that she be given information about the language in this bill, which was co-sponsored by a majority of the members of this body. It will be interesting to see those who support this bill vote against making the language of their bill available to the young women affected by it, believing that somehow it accomplishes a bad result. They are supporting language which, if it was made known to the ones it affects, would produce an evil result, but it is not unusual to find that kind of a situation where morality does not follow a straight line but twists and turns in